AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a computer bus;

a host processor programmed to perform error code correction; and

a drive for providing an encryption mask, the drive performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block; the drive providing the encrypted block to the computer bus, whereby an encrypted block can be sent to the host processor via the computer bus for error code correction.

27. (Currently amended) A drive comprising:

a reader; and

a controller for performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data provided by the reader, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block.

28. (Previously presented) A data controller comprising a processor for performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block.